



Leo Carrillo Ranch DOCENT NEWS

Upcoming Events



Refresher Tour with Charles
Thursday, March 11 @ 10:00 am

**Coffee and Docents:
Carrillo Ranch Plants**
Friday, April 16 @ 10:00 am

Docent Appreciation Breakfast
Friday, April 30 @ 9:30 am

Refresher Tour with Charles
Thursday, May 13 @ 10:00 am

Wild West Fest
Saturday, May 15 from 10-2pm

**Coffee and Docents:
Down and Dirty with Adobe**
Friday, June 11 @ 10:00 am

Refresher Tour with Charles
Thursday, July 8 @ 10:00am

**For more information or to
sign up for one these events,
please contact Eileen McNary
at (760) 476-1042**

Park Update



By Charles Balteria

A special thanks to all of you who were able to attend the inaugural Coffee and Docent program in February. As we continue holding these programs, it is my hope that you will find the information meaningful and useful to you in your interactions with guests here at the Ranch. The program continues next month on

Friday April 16 at 10:00 am with a specialized tour on the Ranch's plant life. As we continue to develop this new program, I encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

This month I will be leading a refresher tour on Thursday, March 11 at 10:00 am. This informal tour will give you the opportunity to brush up on your history and to ask me any questions you have about the park.

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Docent Birthday Club

Celebrating Birthdays in March!

Dorothy Thompson, March 4
Skip Moyer, March 9
Candi Tipton, March 23
Marley White, March 31



Staff Article



By Tom Schwartz

We all know that Quiotes means Spanish Daggers, that the yucca plant leaves look like the Spanish Daggers, and that the Kelly family named their homestead "The Kiotes" because of an abundance of Yucca plants found in the area. Today,

unfortunately there are very few of these historically significant plants in the area. On the Ranch you will find yuccas by the map and self guided tour in the parking lot, and several along palm lane. In the spring you will be able to easily recognize them by their 6 to 14 inch drooping stalk that is full of white flowers. Historically the Yucca whipplei was very useful to the natives of this area; in fact they used every part of it. The leaves contain a fiber that was used for making ropes, baskets and mats. The roots contain saponins which were traditionally used as soap and for fishing by Native Americans. The fruit, flowers and stem can be eaten raw or cooked. The flowers make a wonderful flavoring when dried and crushed. The stems can be peeled and cooked like asparagus. The seeds can be ground into a powder to make gruel. Even though there are very few of them left in the area today the Yucca plant has had a very large impact on the native peoples of San Diego County and the Homesteaders that came later.

Jaime O'Dell additionally contributed to this article.

Docent Spotlight



What a great morning it was, as we all gathered around for our first "Coffee and Docents" program. I especially enjoyed sitting around the old Koi pond in the courtyard. With all its charm, it's easy to see why Tom and Barbara Farley would think so as well. Come down any Sunday morning and you can see them give a warm welcome to all the guests, as if it was in their own back yard. The Farley's have volunteered since we have opened to the public in 2003. When they are not leading fourth grade tours at the Ranch, you will find them volunteering at the San Diego Botanic Gardens and at the Batiquitos Lagoon. They have truly made the Ranch a great place to visit and we are lucky to have them.

By Eileen McNary

Photo of the Month



By Pam Laird



Our bean thresher up on the hill near the picnic area is a Ventura Combine Bean Harvester. It was not owned by Mr. Carrillo, but does represent a period piece of farm equipment that may have been used at the Ranch. The bean thresher was donated to the Ranch by Don Pickett of San Marcos in 1999.



Did You Know?

- It is a rare piece of agricultural history dating back to the early 1900's, used to "thresh, separate and clean all kinds of beans".
- Its selling points were that it was made just for beans. It was less than 13' wide so it could be moved easily over bridges and through farm gates.
- It was built with two racks arranged so they would counter balance each other and could run steadily without being blocked or anchored in the field.

Park Update: Continued

Next month we will be hosting a special Docent Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, April 30 at 9:30 am. I look forward to seeing all of you at the breakfast as we thank you for your continuing support of the park. Expect to see an invitation in your mail box soon.

The annual film festival will continue this summer on five consecutive Friday nights August 27 through September 24. The film festival will once again start with Dinner and a Movie Night on August 20. Flyers for both of these events will be available at the Ranch later this spring.

Currently in development is a new Cisco Kid exhibit which will replace the current branding exhibit inside Antoinette's bedroom this summer. This new exhibit will feature some of the original costumes worn by Duncan Renaldo and Leo Carrillo, episodes of the Cisco Kid and even a saddle for the kids to sit on. Prior to the exhibit opening, you will be invited to a special training with Gerry our archivist.

Progress continues on the Barn Theater Project. The project is expected to go before the City Council in April for the final approval to go out to bid. Construction is still expected to start in early summer. Once the interior work is completed, there will be new opportunities for guests to learn about the park and plenty of new opportunities for each of you to contribute your time.



Ranch Questions and Answers

Whatever happened to Duncan Renaldo after the Cisco Kid?

After making 156 episodes of the Cisco Kid with Leo Carrillo, Duncan Renaldo retired from acting despite numerous offers from Hollywood studios to appear in westerns. Duncan, who was described as a true gentleman, explained he had to turn down the offers because "I hate all the violence. The Cisco Kid never killed anybody. I always shot the gun out of his hand or captured the villain." Duncan Renaldo passed way on September 3, 1980 at age 76 following complications from lung cancer in Santa Barbara, where he is now buried.

Email your questions to Charles Balteria at Charles.Balteria@carlsbadca.gov